

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (original) An electric connector composed of a female connector and a male connector engageable therewith,

the female connector being of a depressed shape,

the male connector having a cavity with a front opening for reception of the female connector being fitted in the male connector,

an insulated housing as the principal part of the female connector having compartments formed side by side to discretely accommodate therein socket contacts each lying on its side and secured on a wire end,

a lance formed integral with each socket contact and facing sideways so as to be latched by a lug formed in the compartment and protruding from an inner wall surface thereof,

a further insulated housing also serving as the principal part of the male connector and having the cavity formed therein,

the further insulated housing further having compartments that hold therein male contacts capable of fitting in the respective socket contacts and establishing electrical connection therewith, and

peep holes formed in at least one of upper and lower walls of the female housing, such that the lugs engaging with the respective lances are exposed to the outside within the peep holes,

wherein the male housing is designed to cover and hide the peep holes as the female housing is inserted into the cavity of the male housing.

2. (original) An electric connector as defined in claim 1, the peep holes are formed in both the upper and lower walls of the female housing.

3. (currently amended) An electric connector as defined in claim 1, further comprising a latching mechanism for keeping the connectors in a stable engagement with each other, the mechanism being composed of an elastic lock arm that protrudes from each of opposite outer sides of the female housing, an outer detent protruding sideways from each lock arm, and pawls each formed in an inner side surface of the cavity in the male housing so that the detent and pawl catching one another do constitute the latching mechanism, when the female housing and the fore portion of each lock arm are received in the cavity.

4. (original) An electric connector as defined in claim 3, further comprising a pair of guards may protrude from each of the opposite sides of female housing so that the lock arm is disposed in between such guards, wherein the guards will come into contact with the fore face of the male housing, thereby assisting a worker or user to visually confirm neat engagement of female housing with the male housing.